

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 31, 32, and 34-48 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-30 and 33 are requested to be canceled without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in a timely filed continuation application. Claims 31 and 32 are currently being amended, and new claims 34-48 are being added. No new matter is introduced as the amended and new claim language is supported by the claims and specification as originally filed, including but not limited to the following.

Claims 31, 32	Claims 4,7 as originally filed; paragraphs 13-14, 30-31
Claim 34	Claims 6, 9 as originally filed; paragraphs 11, 27, 36
Claim 35	Paragraphs 11, 27, 36
Claims 36, 42, 43	Paragraphs 11, 27, 32
Claims 37, 44	Paragraph 36
Claim 38	Paragraphs 6, 27
Claim 39,	Claim 11 as originally filed; paragraph 29
Claim 40	Claim 12 as originally filed; paragraph 29
Claim 41	Claim 23 as originally filed; paragraph 30
Claim 45	Paragraph 30, 44
Claim 46	Claim 25 as originally filed; paragraphs 14, 27, 30
Claim 47	Paragraph 40
Claim 48	Claim 26 as originally filed; paragraph 29

The amendments are presented in response to issues raised in the final Office Action, and are respectfully submitted to place the application in condition for allowance or, in the alternative, to reduce the issues upon appeal. Accordingly, entry of the amendment submitted herewith is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The allowance of claims 31-33 in the Office Action dated May 4, 2005 is noted with appreciation. Claims 31 and 32 have been amended solely to define Applicants' invention with greater particularity. As each element has the same or broader scope, claims 31 and 32 are entitled to a full range of equivalents. New claims 34-40, depending from claim 32, have been added. As claims 34-40 incorporate all the elements of allowed claim 32, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also patentable.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that process claims 23-26 would be allowable if rewritten to depend from the allowed claims. In view thereof, claims 23-26 have been canceled and new method claims 41-48, dependent from claim 32, have been added. As claims 41-48 incorporate all of the elements of allowed claim 32, Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are also patentable.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 23524
Telephone: (608) 258-4303
Facsimile: (608) 258-4258

By Joseph P. Meara
Joseph P. Meara
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,932